

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

09/711,323

NOV 15 2006

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2 AND 4-5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand rejected as being anticipated by the Nine et al. patent (U.S. 6,560,611, issued May 6, 2003, hereinafter "Nine"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which claim 2 depends, as well as independent claims 4 and 5, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the present invention.

Particularly, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Nine fails to disclose or suggest the novel invention of adjusting a belief state of a first sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the first sensor, based on a belief state of a second sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the second sensor, as claimed in Applicants' independent claims 1, 4 and 5.

By contrast, Nine teaches a system wherein a remote monitoring system (RMS) server, which monitors a network service, environmental condition or security service at a client site, reports to a central accounting system (CAS) server at a central location (a network operation site or NOS). The CAS server, in turn, collects the reports from the RMS server and, if necessary, notifies a human operator. Thus, no direct monitoring of resources occurs at the CAS server; it merely serves as a collection point for reports from the RMS servers. Collecting reports from remote monitoring systems is not the same as directly monitoring a system resource or service and adjusting a belief state pertaining to the directly monitored resource or service based on the received reports, as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1, 4 and 5. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1, 4 and 5, as amended, positively recite:

1. A method for correlating a first sensor to a second sensor in an intrusion detection system, the first and second sensors each maintaining belief over a number of

09/711,323

possible states of the system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting to the first sensor information about the second sensor's belief state, said belief state indicating a state of at least one system resource or service directly monitored by the second sensor; and

(b) adjusting a prior belief state of the first sensor, said belief state indicating a state of at least one system resource or service directly monitored by the first sensor, the adjustment based at least in part on the second sensor's belief state. (Emphasis added)

4. A method for reducing false alarms generated by an intrusion detection system when a monitored resource is degraded or compromised, the intrusion detection system having a first and second sensors each maintaining belief over a number of possible states of the system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting to the first sensor all or part of the belief of the second sensor regarding an apparent normal, degraded or compromised state of a resource directly monitored by the second sensor; and

(b) adjusting a prior belief state of the first sensor regarding an apparent normal, degraded or compromised state of a resource directly monitored by the first sensor so that an erroneous transaction with the degraded or compromised resource does not generate an alarm. (Emphasis added)

5. A method for enhancing the sensitivity of an intrusion detection system that monitors a plurality of computer system resources, the intrusion detection system having a first and second sensors each maintaining belief over a number of possible states of the system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting to the first sensor all or part of the belief of the second sensor regarding the existence or validity of services supported on computer system resources directly monitored by the second sensor; and

(b) adjusting a prior belief state of the first sensor regarding the existence or validity of services supported on computer system resources directly monitored by the first sensor so that an attempted communication with a nonexistent system service or resource appears suspicious. (Emphasis added)

As discussed above, Nine does not teach or even suggest the desirability of adjusting a belief state of a first sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the first sensor, based on a belief state of a second sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the second sensor. Therefore, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 4 and 5 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Dependent claim 2 depends from claim 1 and recites additional features therefore. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants

09/711,323

submit that claim 2 is not anticipated by the teachings of Nine. Therefore, the Applicants submit that dependent claim 2 also fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Nine in view of the Timm patent (U.S. 5,440,498, hereinafter "Timm"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4 and 5, from which claim 2 depends, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the present invention.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Nine and Timm, singularly or in any permissible combination, fail to disclose or suggest the novel invention of adjusting a belief state of a first sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the first sensor, based on a belief state of a second sensor regarding a system resource or service directly monitored by the second sensor, as claimed in Applicants' independent claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. Applicants' claim 1 has been recited above.

As discussed above, Nine does not teach or even suggest the desirability of adjusting a belief state of a sensor relating to a state of a system resource or service directly monitored by the sensor, based on a belief state of another sensor regarding another system resource or service. Timm does not bridge this gap in the teachings of Nine. Nine and Timm, singularly or in any permissible combination, thus fail to teach, suggest or make obvious a method in which a first sensor's belief state relating to a state of a network resource or service directly monitored thereby is adjusted based on at least part of a second sensor's belief state, as positively claimed by the Applicants in claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants submit that independent claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and is patentable thereunder.

Dependent claim 3 depends from claim 1 and recites additional features therefore. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that claim 3 is not made obvious by the teachings of Nine in view of Timm. Therefore, the Applicants submit that dependent claim 3 also fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and is patentable thereunder.

09/711,323

III. NEW CLAIMS

The Applicants have added new claims 10, 11 and 12, which present the subject matter of existing claims 1, 4 and 5, respectively, in computer readable medium form.

IV. CONCLUSION

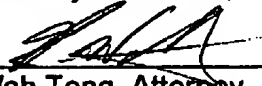
Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

11/15/06
Date

Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Respectfully submitted,


Kin-Wah Tong, Attorney
Reg. No. 39,400
(732) 530-9404